

MEMORANDUM

TO: Modeling Task Force Members

FROM: Mike Ainsworth

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary

MODELING TASK FORCE MEETING

March 27, 2002 - Wednesday
9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Southern California
Association of Governments
818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Room – San Bernardino A&B

Attendees

Chaushie Chu	Gerry Bare
Mike Ainsworth	Edwin Kampman
Ed Humenik	Bob Goedhart
Ed Yotter	Tony Van Haagen
Ron Taira	Deng Bang Lee
Taimour Tanavoli	Dale Ratzlaff
Luke Cheng	Gouxiong Huang
Paul Burke	Chuck Chenu
Dale Iwai	Robert Farley
Firooz Hamedani	Rena Lum
Pablo Gutierrez	Stewart Chesler
Kathy Hsaio	Tom Miller
Chad Lambirth	Jeff Woodson
Keith Killough	Tony Van Hagen
Paul Fagen	Keith Killough

Draft Meeting Summary

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Public Comment Period – No Comments

3.0 Introductions

4.0 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Summary - Approved with corrections.

Information Items:

5.1 Model Peer Review Committee – Deng Bang Lee provided an overview of the Model Review process and distributed copies of the Peer Review Committee Meeting Summary. The Peer Review Committee, composed of modeling experts, was convened on January 25, 2002. The purpose of the Committee was to review counter-intuitive modeling results where volumes on some freeway segments were projected to have lower peak-period total vehicle volumes in the future year 2025 than in the base year 1997. The Peer Review Committee was asked to review SCAG's evaluation and provide answers to the following questions: 1) Is SCAG's Model based upon state-of-the-practice transportation modeling methodology? 2) Is SCAG's Model a reliable tool for use in the regional planning process? 3) Are the modeling results consistent with the inputs and assumptions? 4) What future improvements or enhancements could be made to the model? The Panel reviewed SCAG's analysis and findings. The following are the Peer Review Committee's general conclusions regarding the reliability of SCAG's Regional Transportation Model: 1) SCAG's Transportation Model provides a good example of state-of-the-practice modeling techniques and should provide a reliable tool for evaluating the transportation impacts of regional land use and transportation system changes, 2) The 2025 regional travel projections are reasonable given the projected changes in land use, population and employment, 3) SCAG's Transportation Model will benefit from several current enhancements and the wealth of empirical data now being collected.

Recommendation: Use backcasting for the next validation. Deng Bang Lee will check into the availability of the additional variables required by the new Regional Transportation Model.

5.2 Regional Cordon Survey – Jeff Woodson (Transfo Inc.) and Tom Miller (National Research Inc.) provided the Task Force a description and a brief update of the Cordon Survey. The purpose of the Survey is to gather origin/destination, trip purpose, occupancy, and demographic data for 17 cordon locations. A total of 184,000 surveys will be mailed out with an expected return of 46,000 forms (25%). The Pilot Survey was conducted on March 12th and the returns are currently being received and processed. The expected 5-day turn-around to mailout surveys actually took 10 days. The delay was due to problems experienced transmitting the data from Caltrans to the DMV.

- 5.3 SR-91 Commuter Survey - Jeff Woodson provided the group an overview of the SR-91 Commuter Survey. The Survey is scheduled for the second week of April. The survey location has been selected (Maple Street) and the Committee is working with Caltrans to obtain the necessary permits.
- 5.4 Model Improvement Project - Keith Killough was selected as the consultant to facilitate the Model Improvement Project. The objectives of the effort are to 1) evaluate the previous Model Improvement Program focusing on “lessons learned”, 2) evaluate and document SCAG’s existing Regional Transportation Model, 3) identify future modeling needs, 4) determine future modeling requirements, 5) develop a short-range improvement program, 6) develop a long-range strategic plan to guide the future direction of the Regional Modeling Program, and 7) initiate a Model Review Panel of modeling experts to provide guidance throughout the process.

Recommendation – Include other MPO modeling staff on the Model Review Panel.

Recommendation – Include the Consultants who participated in the previous Model Improvement Program in the upcoming effort.

- 5.5 Redefinition of the Regional Screenlines – Mike Ainsworth provide an overview of the development of the screenline data needed for the upcoming model validation effort. Several additional screenlines will be added in emerging urban areas and areas under-represented by the current screenline system. The count data will be gathered from the following sources: Caltrans’ HPMS, LACMTA/SCAG upcoming consultant contract to gather count data, Caltrans Traffic Census book, and by contacting local jurisdictions.

Recommendation – Members recommended that SCAG begin gathering data needed for developing a weekend modeling methodology. In the future SCAG will most likely need a modeling methodology to forecast weekend travel needed for the AQMP and SIP.

Recommendation – Request that ARB staff attend the next Modeling Task Force Meeting to explain their current methodology for estimating weekend traffic volumes and speeds.

Recommendation – Include gathering weekend traffic counts in the upcoming MTA/SCAG Screenline Contract.

Recommendation – Prepare a memorandum to SCAG management explaining next year’s modeling priorities.

- 5.6 Year 2000 Post Census Travel Survey Status – Paul Burke provided the group an update of the Travel Survey. Most of the recruitment has been completed and the retrieval effort is in progress. The Survey is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2002, however because the data expansion requires census data (scheduled for release this summer) the

project completion will likely be delayed until late summer. The next step once the Survey is completed is to develop programs to apply the survey data for modeling applications.

6.0 Open Discussion and Other Business – No comments

7.0 Schedule and Agenda for Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2002.

8.0 Adjournment